



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

CANTOR COLBURN, LLP
55 GRIFFIN ROAD SOUTH
BLOOMFIELD, CT 06002

COPY MAILED

JUL 26 2006

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Yeager et al. :
Application No. 10/604,214 : ON PETITION
Filed: July 1, 2003 :
Attorney Docket No. :
08CN6021-9 :

This is a decision on the Petition Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), filed April 14, 2006, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§120 and 119(e) for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications set forth in the concurrently filed amendment. The petition is properly treated under 37 CFR 1.78 §§ (a)(3) and (a)(6).

The petition is **GRANTED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) and 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(i) and 1.78(a)(5)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

Additionally, the instant nonprovisional application must be pending at the time of filing of the reference to the prior-filed provisional application(s) as required by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii). Further, the nonprovisional application(s) claiming the benefit of the prior-filed provisional application(s) must have been filed within twelve months of the filing date of the prior-filed provisional application(s).

All of the above requirements having been satisfied, the late claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) is accepted as being unintentionally delayed.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed applications under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) should not be construed as meaning that this application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the prior-filed applications. In order for this application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §§120 and 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) and under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(4) and (a)(5) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed applications, accompanies this decision on petition.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Attorney Derek L. Woods at (571) 272-3232. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This application is being forwarded to Technology Center Art Unit 1751 for appropriate action on the amendment filed February 21, 2006, including consideration by the examiner of applicant's

claim for the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 119(e) to the prior-filed nonprovisional and provisional applications.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances Hicks".

Frances Hicks
Lead Paralegal
Office of Petitions

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt